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ABSTRACT

This report offers a perspective on school violence and its pervasiveness as a local public-safety issue. It summarizes the responses of 700 cities and towns to a survey conducted by the National League of Cities (NLC) in 1994. Half of the nation's 200 largest cities responded, but the largest percentage of responses were from suburban and rural cities, with nearly 65 percent from places with populations below 50,000. Responses reveal that the growing level of concern about school violence has led to a significant allocation of local police resources to address the problem and includes prevention programs and a police presence at athletic events. This concern has also led to a rethinking of the roles and responsibilities of local-government policymakers as they consider the fact that school violence is a problem of substantial or growing significance in more than 80 percent of the nation's cities and towns. Serious injuries or deaths from violence at school occurred in 25 percent of the cities surveyed during the past year. Student and neighborhood gangs are regarded as a significant factor in a majority of medium and large cities. There is an increasing recognition that the problem of school safety is a problem that includes the total community. Nine tables present survey findings. (SLD)

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ED 377 291

School Violence in America's Cities:

NLC Survey Overview

by

Randolph C. Arndt

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School Violence in America's Cities: NLC Survey Overview

School's getting rough in America's cities and towns. Not necessarily rough and more challenging in terms of the 3 R's of schoolwork -- reading, writing and arithmetic -- but rough in terms of the rising levels of violence in and around schools. This is occurring in communities of all types throughout the nation.

Nearly 40 percent of the 700 cities and towns responding to a National League of Cities survey said school violence has increased noticeably over the past five years, and nearly 40 percent said student or neighborhood gangs were a significant factor in school violence. Another 45 percent of the cities reported that school violence has remained about the same over the past five years. Only 6 percent say the problem has decreased, and only 11 percent say school violence is not a problem for them.

"When the children attending the schools in our community do not feel safe, then learning cannot occur," said the opening sentence of the report by an Ad Hoc Task Force on School Safety in Phoenix, Ariz. "When asked on the Arizona Student Assessment Report if they felt safe in their school, 37 percent of Arizona school children responded that they did not feel safe."

"The issue of crime and violence on school grounds is a major concern," wrote a police division commander in a central Florida city of 44,000.

The mayor of a suburban community of 42,000 in southwest Ohio, concurred in a similar letter: " . . . we in the City of Huber Heights share your concern about the impact of growing school violence on local law enforcement strategies and resources."

Concern about school violence is becoming as prominent an issue as academic performance or curriculum choices in many schools. Taking steps to prevent it is bringing changes to school environments as well as the regular duties of local police departments.

"School violence cannot be tolerated in our society, and this city is committed to insuring our youth are educated in a safe environment," Mayor Steve Bartlett of Dallas, Texas, wrote in a letter accompanying his city's survey response.

Reports of attacks, shootings, searches for weapons, gang activity and other incidents have created fear, anxiety and uncertainty about what's happening when kids go to school each day. Nearly 20 percent of the cities said metal detectors are used regularly as a deterrent to weapons being brought into schools.

A police official in a small Florida Gulf Coast city described the situation in that community after police resumed a school resource officer program halted three years ago because of budget constraints. "We have found a large increase in juvenile crime within our city and having been away from the schools, we lost contact with our youth and related problems," the official said.

Seventy percent of the NLC survey respondents said their police departments regularly conduct patrols or other activities at local schools as a violence prevention strategy. While nearly half in that group (47 percent) said they have been involved in such efforts for eight years or more, more than a quarter (26 percent) said they have just begun the practice within the past three years.

Each time a news report includes mention of an attack in or around a school, the reflexive reaction of dismay and revulsion is often followed by a brooding worry: could it happen here?

One of every four communities in the survey said there had been incidents resulting in deaths or requiring hospital care in the past year alone.

"It was to top of the seventh inning and the bases were loaded," wrote Natalie Bishop, a student at Cortez High School in Phoenix, Ariz. "A quick swing of the metallic bat sent the ball into deep left field. However, the left fielder didn't catch the ball, thus allowing the winning run to score.

"The team hung then heads, but not because they lost the game. A black ribbon on their jerseys revealed the cause of their grief. Just one week earlier the starting left fielder was killed at their high school."

This report offers a perspective on school violence and its pervasiveness as a local public safety issue. It summarizes the responses provided by 700 cities and towns to a NLC survey conducted in August and September, 1994. Half of the nation's 200 largest cities responded to the survey, but the largest percentage of responses came from suburban and rural cities. Nearly two out of three responses (65 percent) came from places with populations of less than 50,000. Forty-four percent came from suburban cities and towns. Some of the findings from these smaller and outlying communities offer a jarring contrast to the belief that school violence is a problem only for struggling big city schools.

"I live in a city that is in a state of denial," wrote a municipal official from a medium-sized suburban city in the Northwest who said schools there are not always reporting

incidents. "We have no idea how much is occurring in schools. It is sorely underreported and a rapidly growing problem."

The findings of this survey reveal a situation that has become a widespread concern -- not just a unique and unfortunate characteristic of a few troubled schools or cities. While not an exhaustive assessment of conditions and policies relating to all local school systems and all cities, the breadth of responses provides a very substantial composite picture of what's happening in communities throughout the United States.

The growing level of concern about school violence has led to a significant allocation of local police resources to address the problem. In a rural town with a population under 6,000 in North Carolina, two of the 23 police patrol officers are assigned full-time to school duty and another conducts a drug education and awareness program in schools as part of his duties.

A medium sized midwestern city with 88 uniformed officers has one full time school resource officer and five others assigned to drug and gang intervention programs in local schools; another with 132 officers has two assigned full time to its high schools. In a policy dating back more 20 years and focused on preventive strategies, a large city in the Northwest has allocated 17 of its 200 sworn police officers to school assignments.

In a number of communities, these changing conditions and new responsibilities for local government policymakers have had another effect. These developments have begun, or they have added to, a broader dialogue that is crossing traditional lines of jurisdiction, such as between school boards and city hall. It is a dialogue that, by focusing on issues and strategies such as violence and safety, has prompted decisions to rethink and redesign some longstanding policies.

A gang and violence intervention program in a large Northeastern city cited the importance of exchanging information that is "open, honest and to the point," and credited those principles in establishing a very successful communications process in that city. "Monthly meetings are scheduled between police and school officials so that incidents may be reviewed and critiqued for improvement/change," said a program description. "Additional meetings are presently being planned for review and improvement purposes."

The National League of Cities is currently involved in two projects related to this aspect of rethinking roles and relationships within local governments themselves and with other community institutions, as well. A NLC futures report on "Rethinking Public Safety"

will present the findings of a year-long study by the League's Advisory Council in December. NLC's ongoing project on Children and Families in Cities is currently developing a new initiative focusing on a broad array of issues that are creating new linkages between cities and schools.

The identity of individual respondents to this NLC survey will remain confidential. This will assure that any specific explanations or descriptions of local policies or conditions will be provided by the officials within that particular community. A summary of survey findings has been forwarded to the mayors of all cities to which the survey was sent. In addition to the breakdowns of data in the tables appearing in this report, some information about the survey group and respondents appears at the end of the report.

Survey Findings

School violence is a problem of substantial or growing significance in more than 80 percent of the nation's cities and towns. Asked to characterize local conditions over the past five years, 38 percent said the problem has increased noticeably, and 45 percent said it is about the same. While the largest cities and central cities most frequently reported increasing levels of school violence, at least 30 percent of the cities in all population categories and among all types of cities reporting a noticeable increase.

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50-100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
5-year School Violence Trend								
Noticeable violence increase	38	261	55	53	46	71	31	136
About the same	45	307	35	34	44	68	47	205
Decreased	6	41	8	8	5	8	6	25
Not a problem	11	78	2	2	5	7	16	69

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
5-year School Violence Trend								
Noticeable violence increase	61	61	33	99	42	49	30	49
About the same	28	28	47	142	46	54	50	81
Decreased	6	6	6	18	5	6	6	10
Not a problem	3	3	14	43	8	9	14	22

Forty-five percent of the survey responses described the level of school violence in that community as "about the same." By itself, that information describes a *status quo* situation and could be insufficient to characterize conditions. When considered alongside two other questions in the survey, however, there is strong reason to interpret the response as a

troubling rather than encouraging statement.

The school violence question offered two options for positive responses -- that it had decreased or that it was not a problem -- which together averaged 17 percent and rose above 20 percent only among the smallest cities (22 percent).

Another question, which asked about police patrols at schools as a violence prevention strategy left little doubt that the problem exists and is a significant concern. Overall, 70 percent of the cities said their police departments regularly patrol schools. Even in small and rural communities, more than 60 percent said their police have been involved in patrolling schools as a violence prevention strategy. Where such police patrols are carried out, the policy has existed for eight years or more in nearly half of them (47 percent). The patrols have been carried out for five or more years in nearly three fourths of the cities (74 percent).

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50-100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol schools	30	213	27	27	26	40	33	146
Police patrol schools	70	485	73	74	74	115	67	295
Grounds only		136		12		29		95
Builings & grounds		267		48		63		155
Beginning/end of day		60		12		7		41
Throughout day		345		54		81		209
Selected schools only		80		22		24		34
High schools only		85		16		23		46
Lower grades also		222		29		53		139
Uniformed police only		220		44		46		130
Non-uniform & uniform		201		24		53		123
Years Patrols Carried Out								
Less than 3 years	26	124	20	15	25	28	27	81
At least 5 years	27	133	31	23	32	36	25	74
8 years or more	47	230	49	36	44	50	49	142

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol schools	31	31	28	85	27	31	38	63
Police patrol schools	69	69	73	224	74	86	62	102
Grounds only		14		59		26		36
Builings & grounds		41		123		50		49
Beginning/end of day		11		22		14		13
Throughout day		54		156		67		65
Selected schools only		16		39		13		13
High schools only		11		36		25		13
Lower grades also		32		104		30		53
Uniformed police only		32		98		38		51
Non-uniform & uniform		33		99		27		40
Years Patrols Carried Out								
Less than 3 years	25	17	22	50	32	28	28	28
At least 5 years	38	26	23	52	28	25	29	29
8 years or more	38	26	55	122	40	36	44	44

The types of police patrols carried out and the responsibilities of the officers assigned to school programs varies considerably. In a question that asked about types of patrols, several prominent responses suggested that the duties involve a high level of preventive and intervention efforts along with security and enforcement activities.

In all types of cities where police have school patrol duties, the vast majority of assignments are throughout the day (345), as opposed to beginning and end of the day only (60). The assignments overwhelmingly included lower schools (222) as well as high schools or selected schools only (165). From the dozens of descriptive statements which were returned with the survey, the explanation, very probably, is the widespread establishment of school resource officer programs and other crime intervention measures. Some of these initiatives, such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) involve classroom instructional assignments for officers in addition to a role in general security and school safety. Several respondents also noted that police officers assigned to school security also become involved in community policing activities in the neighborhoods surrounding schools.

In a medium-sized suburban community in New England, police officers carry out a 17-week DARE program at all elementary schools, conduct a violence prevention program in all middle schools, and have youth officers assigned throughout the week at all high schools and middle schools. The procedures have been carried out for more than five years.

In Wichita, Kan., the public school system distributes a brochure, "Safety Within Our Schools" that describes programs and procedures to maintain a safe school environment. It identifies areas such as drug abuse awareness, school and bus safety, gang and youth violence measures, general law enforcement and public-private initiative called "Project Freedom" to enlist businesses and individuals in keeping schools safe.

Serious injuries or deaths resulting from school violence occurred in 25 percent of the cities during the past year. The survey did not seek actual numbers of incidents. The need for hospital treatment served as the criteria for considering injuries as serious. As might be expected, central cities (48 percent) and the largest cities (41 percent) most frequently reported such incidents, but even among suburban cities (19 percent), smaller cities (19 percent) and rural cities (21 percent), nearly one out of every five communities experienced significant incidents of school violence during the past year.

Cities also were asked about violence occurring at schools in the past three years, not

including the past year, and the past five years, not including events in the three-year period. In all categories of cities, there was a significant increase in the number of cities reporting incidents four or five years ago and the number of cities experiencing such incidents more recently. Overall, 31 percent of the cities reported serious incident of school violence in the past two or three years, compared to 19 percent for the past four or five years. The gap was 10 percent or more in all sizes of cities and all types except for suburban communities, where the difference was 9 percent.

	ALL CITIES N = 700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000 + N = 101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50- 100,000 N = 155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N = 443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	25	173	41	41	32	49	19	82
Within past 2-3 years	31	214	46	46	39	60	24	107
Within past 4-5 years	19	132	30	30	29	45	13	56

	Central city N = 100		Suburban city N = 309		Non-metro city N = 119		Rural city N = 165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	48	48	19	60	24	29	21	34
Within past 2-3 years	45	45	25	77	37	44	28	46
Within past 4-5 years	35	35	16	50	15	18	17	28

Student and neighborhood gangs are regarded as a significant factor in school violence in a majority of both medium and large cities. Fifty-two percent of the mid-sized cities view gangs as a serious influence, and 72 percent of the largest cities say they are part of the problem. Overall, 39 percent of the cities said gangs were a significant concern. Suburban and non-metropolitan area cities mirrored that finding (40 percent). Small cities (27 percent) and rural cities (21 percent) reported less involvement by gangs.

	ALL CITIES N = 700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000 + N = 101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50- 100,000 N = 155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N = 443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student/neighborhood gangs a factor								
Yes	39	271	72	71	52	80	27	119
No	61	418	28	28	48	75	73	315

	Central city N = 100		Suburban city N = 309		Non-metro city N = 119		Rural city N = 165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student/neighborhood gangs a factor								
Yes	66	65	40	121	40	47	21	34
No	35	33	60	181	60	72	79	129

Nearly one in five (19 percent) of the cities use metal detectors at schools regularly, but not necessarily at all schools, as a part of school security and anti-violence procedures. More than one-third of central cities (36 percent) and the largest cities (34 percent) reported regular use of metal detectors. In both non-metropolitan and rural cities, 20 percent followed the practice, while suburban cities (14 percent) reported the least use of metal detectors.

Among the 133 cities reporting the use of metal detectors and indicating how long the policy has been in effect, 33 percent (38 cities) said the policy is new within the past year. A quarter of the group (29 cities) have used metal detectors for two years, and 15 cities (13 percent) said they have been used for three years. Less than 10 percent of the group (11 cities) said the use of metal detectors has been a policy for more than five years.

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50-100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Use of metal detectors								
No	80	551	66	65	82	125	83	361
Yes	19	127	34	33	17	25	16	69

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Use of metal detectors								
No	64	63	86	259	80	93	79	130
Yes	35	34	13	38	20	23	20	32

High School Athletic Events

A separate part of the survey asked for similar information about violence at high school athletic events and local police roles as a prevention measure. The assignment of police to athletic events was much more prevalent, much longer established, and generally consistent among different types of cities.

Ninety percent of the cities said their police departments regularly patrol high school athletic events to prevent violence, as opposed to traffic control or other activities. Seventy-nine percent said the practice has existed for eight years or more. The largest cities provided the lowest response rate (83 percent) regarding police activity at athletic events. The reason for this unexpected disparity cannot be resolved from the raw data, but several written responses suggest an explanation. Several cities reported that their schools had their own police or security units and a larger number said off-duty police were regularly hired to provide security at athletic events. Such policies, if present in only a half dozen of the largest cities, could account for the apparent disparity in that group of respondents.

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50-100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol athletic events	10	157	17	17	8	12	10	40
Police patrol athletic events	90	543	83	83	92	111	90	377
All events		157		11		31		115
Selected events only		403		68		102		233
Uniformed police only		342		38		75		229
Non-uniform and uniformed police		182		22		47		113
Years patrols carried out								
Less than 3 years	5	29		5		7		17
At least 5 years	16	98		16		23		59
8 years or more	79	476		63		110		303

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol athletic events	13	13	12	35	4	5	10	16
Police patrol athletic events	87	86	88	252	96	111	90	146
All events		14		63		32		46
Selected events only		65		172		72		92
Uniformed police only		38		148		64		87
Non-uniform and uniformed police		27		81		31		43
Years patrols carried out								
Less than 3 years		6		6		9		18
At least 5 years		19		37		18		23
8 years or more		61		213		86		113

Fewer cities reported incidents of serious violence at athletic events than during the regular school day. Only 7 percent of the cities said serious injuries or deaths had occurred as a result of violence at high school athletic events during the past year. Fourteen percent reported violent incidents in the past two or three years, and 11 percent in the past four or five years. The increasing incidents of violence in more recent years at athletic events mirrors the findings for other school violence in those periods. The use of metal detectors at athletic events was reported by 9 percent of the cities. Although most common in the largest and central cities (both 20 percent), their use was reported by 7 percent or 8 percent of all other types and sizes of cities.

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50- 100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	7	42	10	8	12	16	5	18
Within past 2-3 years	14	78	27	13	23	27	10	35
Within past 4-5 years	11	62	17	10	21	25	8	27
Use of metal detectors								
No	91	599	80	78	92	141	93	380
Yes	9	60	20	19	8	13	7	28

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	13	11	8	19	8	8	3	4
Within past 2-3 years	25	18	14	32	14	13	10	14
Within past 4-5 years	30	21	9	21	6	6	10	14
Use of metal detectors								
No	80	77	92	259	93	109	93	150
Yes	20	19	8	21	7	8	7	11

The responses about violence at athletic events and during the regular school day cannot be compared directly because they involve much different situations and very different numbers of students. However, the more prevalent use of police at athletic events and the more established presence of such activities over a longer period of time could also be at least partly responsible for the difference between the number of cities reporting instances of violence in these two situations.

Some examples of local efforts showing signs of success were provided in letters or comments enclosed with survey responses. Positive results in diminishing school violence were a recurring message in comments from cities and towns that have initiated safety

programs in their schools.

A large suburban city in Texas which instituted school assignments for police and an anti-gang police task force within the past three years said those measures "have positively affected school violence." A small non-metropolitan central city in Illinois said the city-school joint funding begun in 1991 for a juvenile officer "has significantly affected the control of school violence at the high school." A small suburban city in Ohio said school violence is not a problem for that community, largely because the city and school district "have worked cooperatively for over 20 years in meeting the safety needs of our children."

Two small adjoining non-metropolitan communities in Ohio established a joint program for the schools serving their communities two years ago. "Since the initiation of the program, we have seen a drop-off of school crime and violence in both the community and the schools," a police official said. "We have also opened up the communications between the schools system and the police departments which were almost nonexistent before the program. Also, our recommendations to the school in regards to security and student safety have been listened to by the addition of three security personnel in the upcoming school year."

Encouraging comments being volunteered in communities seeking solutions to school violence suggest that conditions are not intractable or destined to get worse. The positive signs also seem to become evident relatively soon after programs are initiated, rather than after a prolonged period of effort. The techniques involve intervention and prevention strategies, which serve a continuing role in reducing confrontations and violence. Approaches that deal only with specific disturbances or events may be less likely to establish an enduring sense of individual or overall security in schools where violence occurs.

The city of Jacksonville, Fla., working with the Duval County School Board and several other agencies, established this year a new SAFE (Safe, Accessible, Flexible Enrichment) program at seven locations to provide after-school activities to youth aged 10-14. Volunteers work with the core team of a coordinator, four specialists and a police officer at each location at a local school.

"The problems we are attempting to address with the SAFE program were not created overnight and cannot be expected to be solved immediately," said fact sheet describing the program in Jacksonville. "If numbers are a determining factor of the success of failure of a program, this program is a success. . . . It should also be noted that the SAFE program

received a "Thanks" from an elementary principal who said that two of her problem children had been attending SAFE and had shown a remarkable attitude change."

In responding to a situation that is troubling schools in many communities, municipal officials and agencies are facing new demands on their public safety resources but they are also developing new relationships and techniques to address those problems. Collecting the information presented in this report has revealed a widespread presence and concern about school violence in cities and towns throughout the United States. The findings by themselves paint a disturbing picture, but not one of desperation. Programs that seem to work have been launched in many communities, and they are solutions that can be shared and adapted by communities elsewhere.

"The problem of school safety cannot be considered just a school problem or a city problem," said the Phoenix task force report. "It affects the total community and should be considered a problem for the community to work together to solve."

About the survey:

The questionnaire was sent to 1,452 cities and towns in the United States that are direct members of the National League of Cities, as well as all other U.S. cities with populations above 30,000. Nearly 1,850 survey documents were mailed, and 700 responses were tabulated as the basis for this report. The survey was conducted by the NLC Center for Public Affairs in August and September, 1994. Randolph C. Arndt, NLC's media relations director, managed the project and wrote the text of the report. Herbert L. Green Jr., NLC's research manager, prepared the statistical summary compiled from the survey responses. Some additional information about survey respondents appears below.

Person completing the survey:

Percent	Number	
11	77	Mayor
75	525	Police Chief or other public safety official
4	25	City manager
10	73	Other city official

Census Region of the United States of responding cities and towns:

Percent	Number	
10	70	Northeast
34	238	South
32	227	Midwest
24	165	West

NLC School Violence Survey
by City Population

	ALL CITIES N=700		Largest cities Pop. 100,000+ N=101		Medium-sized cities Pop. 50- 100,000 N=155		Smaller cities Pop. under 50,000 N=443	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol schools	30	213	27	27	26	40	33	146
Police patrol schools	70	485	73	74	74	115	67	295
Grounds only		136		12		29		95
Builings & grounds		267		48		63		155
Beginning/end of day		60		12		7		41
Throughout day		345		54		81		209
Selected schools only		80		22		24		34
High schools only		85		16		23		46
Lower grades also		222		29		53		139
Uniformed police only		220		44		46		130
Non-uniform & uniform		201		24		53		123
Years Patrols Carried Out								
Less than 3 years	26	124	20	15	25	28	27	81
At least 5 years	27	133	31	23	32	36	25	74
8 years or more	47	230	49	36	44	50	49	142
Use other security personnel								
No	64	436		50		75		311
Yes, but not regular police	19	127		22		42		63
Yes, in addition to police	18	122		23		37		59
5-year School Violence Trend								
Noticeable violence increase	38	261	55	53	46	71	31	136
About the same	45	307	35	34	44	68	47	205
Decreased	6	41	8	8	5	8	6	25
Not a problem	11	78	2	2	5	7	16	69
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	25	173	41	41	32	49	19	82
Within past 2-3 years	31	214	46	46	39	60	24	107
Within past 4-5 years	19	132	30	30	29	45	13	56
Student/neighborhood gangs a factor								
Yes	39	271	72	71	52	80	27	119
No	61	418	28	28	48	75	73	315
Use of metal detectors								
Yes	19	133	34	34	18	27	17	72
No	81	551	66	65	82	125	83	361
High School Athletic Events:								
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol athletic events	10	157	17	17	8	12	10	40
Police patrol athletic events	90	543	83	83	92	111	90	377
All events		157		11		31		115
Selected events only		403		68		102		233
Uniformed police only		342		38		75		229
Non-uniform and uniformed police		182		22		47		113
Years patrols carried out								
Less than 3 years	5	29	6	5	5	7	5	17
At least 5 years	16	98	19	16	16	23	16	59
8 years or more	79	476	75	62	79	110	80	303
Use other security personnel								
No	64	418		48		79		291
Yes, but not regular police	9	58		11		19		28
Yes, in addition to regular police	27	175		36		54		85
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	7	42	10	8	12	16	5	18
Within past 2-3 years	14	78	27	13	23	27	10	35
Within past 4-5 years	11	62	17	10	21	25	8	27
Use of metal detectors								
No	91	599	80	78	92	141	93	380
Yes	9	60	20	19	8	13	7	28

NLC School Violence Survey
by City Characteristic

	Central city N=100		Suburban city N=309		Non-metro city N=119		Rural city N=165	
	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol schools	31	31	28	85	27	31	38	63
Police patrol schools	69	69	73	224	74	86	62	102
Grounds only		14		59		26		36
Builings & grounds		41		123		50		49
Beginning/end of day		11		22		14		13
Throughout day		54		156		67		65
Selected schools only		16		39		13		13
High schools only		11		36		25		13
Lower grades also		32		104		30		53
Uniformed police only		32		98		38		51
Non-uniform & uniform		33		99		27		40
Years Patrols Carried Out								
Less than 3 years	25	17	22	50	32	28	28	28
At least 5 years	38	26	23	52	28	25	29	29
8 years or more	38	26	55	122	40	36	44	44
Use other security personnel								
No		50		186		72		124
Yes, but not regular police		23		54		25		24
Yes, in addition to police		23		60		21		16
5-year School Violence Trend								
Noticeable violence increase	61	61	33	99	42	49	30	49
About the same	28	28	47	142	46	54	50	81
Decreased	6	6	6	18	5	6	6	10
Not a problem	3	3	14	43	8	9	14	22
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	48	48	19	60	24	29	21	34
Within past 2-3 years	45	45	25	77	37	44	28	46
Within past 4-5 years	35	35	16	50	15	18	17	28
Student/neighborhood gangs a factor								
Yes	66	65	40	121	40	47	21	34
No	35	33	60	181	60	72	79	129
Use of metal detectors								
Yes	36	35	14	41	20	24	20	33
No	64	63	86	259	80	93	80	130

High School Athletic Events:

	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.
Police do not patrol athletic events	13	13	12	35	4	5	10	16
Police patrol athletic events	87	86	88	252	96	111	90	146
All events		14		63		32		46
Selected events only		65		172		72		92
Uniformed police only		38		148		64		87
Non-uniform and uniformed police		27		81		31		43
Years patrols carried out								
Less than 3 years	7	6	2	6	8	9	6	8
At least 5 years	22	19	15	37	16	18	16	23
8 years or more	71	61	83	213	76	86	79	113
Use other security personnel								
No		52		173		70		119
Yes, but not regular police		11		25		8		14
Yes, in addition to regular police		34		78		37		25
Student deaths and serious injuries								
Within past year	13	11	8	19	8	8	3	4
Within past 2-3 years	25	18	14	32	14	13	10	14
Within past 4-5 years	30	21	9	21	6	6	10	14
Use of metal detectors								
No	80	77	92	259	93	109	93	150
Yes	20	19	8	21	7	8	7	11